

Letter in reply
M/K 581 1/12/98

88 Eskdale Rd
Nth. Caulfield
3161
24/11/98
03-95636180

Dear George,

Chris and I were thrilled to receive your letter. We've owned the house since Sept 1990 and tried early on to find out something of its history. Apparently the council's records were lost in a fire.

When we purchased the house it was divided into 3 flats and in a very poor state of repair. We think it was divided into flats in the 1950's. An older lady lived in one of them. We believe the house had been left to 3 sisters on the understanding that this lady remained in the house until she was no longer able to. Apparently she had a heart attack and the house was put to auction in ~ June 1990. It was a mess - the stumps were rotted; the roof and ceilings leaked; the verandah was rotted out; all the storm water dumped under the house; the roof space was home to multiple possums and the garden was dominated by a huge 2 headed pine tree (only just shorter than the tall palm tree) which left the house damp and dark and everything was covered in pine needles which were accelerating the rotting process. There were multiple self seeded trees growing out of the bases of other trees. Even the saucepans with food in them were still on the stove in the old lady's flat. And ----- it was bought by a developer to demolish and build units. The local residents were however successful in hounding the council and the developer put it back on the market before he'd even settled on it. Then ---- we bought it. It was burgled before we settled and the one

remaining good fire place and mantle stolen. We had unpleasant dealings with the developer over the theft and his refusal to secure the property until we settled on it.

Since 1990 we've put in storm water drainage; replaced the front verandah; removed tons of rubbish & trees - including the 2 headed pine tree; restored it to a single house and renovated the front part. In April 1997 we demolished the out buildings (which were all still there as your letter described) and rebuilt the back to match the front. We've now building a carport and shed. We love the house and are getting close to finishing it.

I've included a plan as we bought it and another of how it is now. We'd love you and your wife to call in when you're next in Melbourne. Many things puzzled us with the house eg. the double doors were never hung, just nailed shut; the mantle pieces remaining were just painted timber shelves - were more ornate ones removed?; what were the rooms used for originally??

We'd like to keep in touch, Any more snippets of information would be appreciated.

Regards

Vicki & Chris Perry

(VICKI & CHRIS PERRY)

PS. - We did remove one of the circular back steps - yes it was built to survive anything!!
- except us!

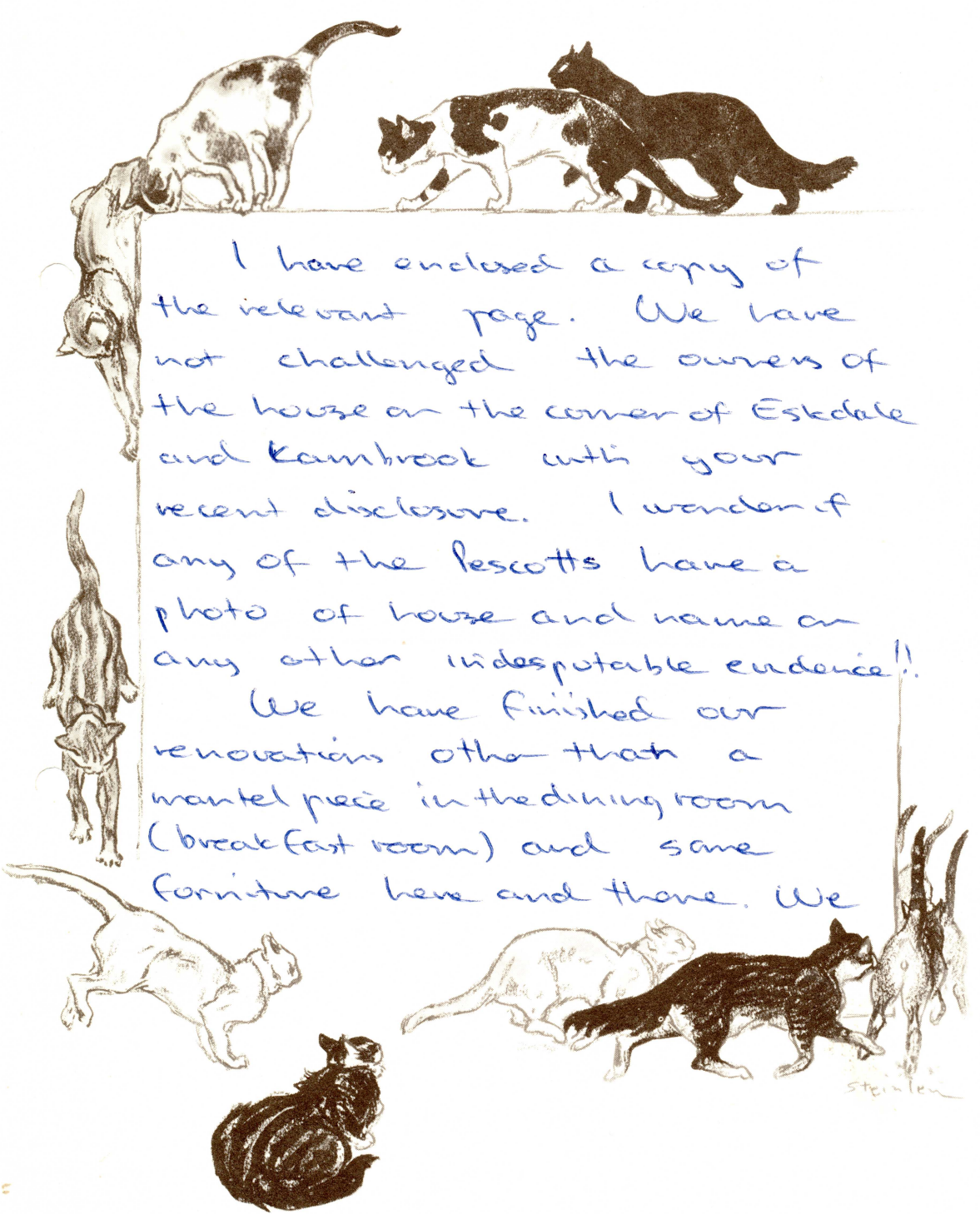
The letter is framed by various animal illustrations. At the top, a dog and two cats are shown. On the left, a dog hangs from the edge, and a cat stands below it. At the bottom, there are several more cats and dogs in various poses. The signature 'Steinlen' is visible in the bottom right corner of the illustration area.

Dear George,

22/8/01

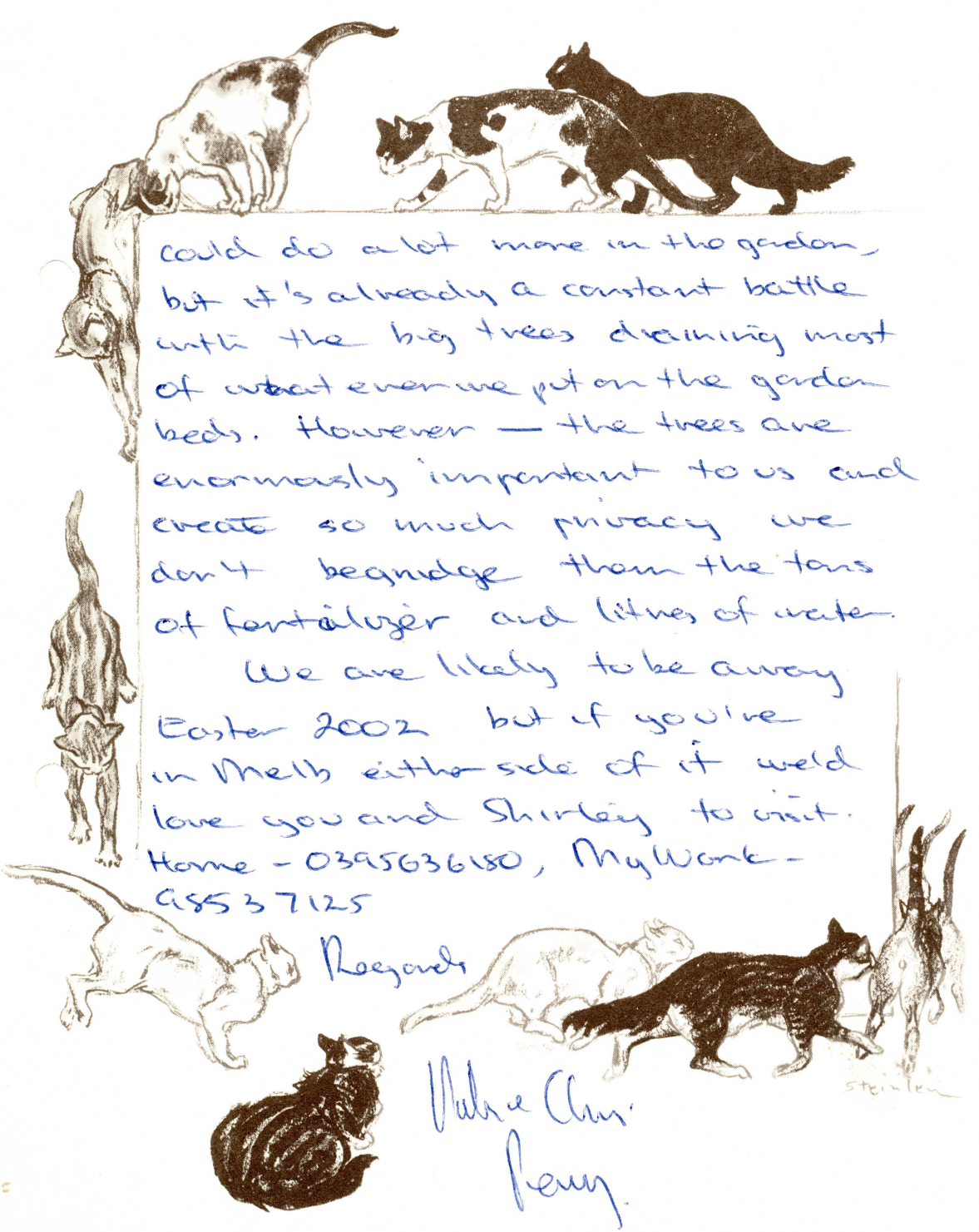
Thank - you for your letter.

Chris & I read it with great interest.
We thought the house must have
had a name and Westfield
seems ~~an~~ appropriate, however,
the Caulfield City Council
commenced a series of four
books entitled "Caulfield's
Heritage" by Dr. Geulah
Solomon for the bicentenary
and in volume 1 this name
is allocated to another house
in Eskdale Rd.

The page is decorated with several pencil sketches of cats. At the top, three cats are shown: a large white cat with black spots on the left, a smaller white cat with black spots in the middle, and a solid black cat on the right. On the left side, a cat is hanging upside down by its tail. Further down the left side, another cat is standing and looking towards the center. At the bottom left, a white cat is walking towards the right, and a black cat is sitting. At the bottom right, a black cat is walking towards the left, and a white cat is standing. The signature 'Sterling' is written in the bottom right corner.

I have enclosed a copy of the relevant page. We have not challenged the owners of the house on the corner of Eskdale and Kambrook with your recent disclosure. I wonder if any of the Pescotts have a photo of house and name or any other indisputable evidence!!

We have finished our renovations other than a mantel piece in the dining room (breakfast room) and some furniture here and there. We

The page is decorated with several hand-drawn illustrations of cats and dogs. At the top, a large dog is on the left, and two cats are on the right. On the left side, a cat is hanging vertically. On the right side, a dog is standing vertically. At the bottom, there are three more cats and one dog. The text is written in blue ink in the center.

could do a lot more in the garden,
but it's already a constant battle
with the big trees draining most
of what ever we put on the garden
beds. However — the trees are
enormously important to us and
create so much privacy we
don't begrudge them the tons
of fertiliser and litres of water.

We are likely to be away
Easter 2002 but if you're
in Melb either side of it we'd
love you and Shirley to visit.
Home - 0395636180, MyWork -
95537125

Regards

Nalra Chris
Perry.



KEW VETERINARY CLINIC

13 Cotham Road, Kew 3101

Ph: (03) 9853 7125

ABN 79 062 966 723

Dear George,

These are the photographs of the house - great aren't they!!

Chris saw the original photo and said it was deteriorating so we're very pleased to have the copies now and not in years to come.

Nothing was said re the name of the house. Maybe the wheels are turning - slowly. We'll ring again in a few weeks.

We enjoyed hearing about your cats. We have two cats - Lucy and Lewis. Both are grey and were strays. They loved the house changes during

Dr. Vicki Sharp B.V.Sc.(Hons)

Dr. Fiona Anderson B.V.Sc.(Hons)

our ten years of renovating - rooms
changed all the time - the
ultimate for exploring cats.

Lucy is the eldest \approx 15 years and
is still the grand dame and
totally in control - of Louis and
us!!

All the best

Mike Chris.